Rakudai Kishi no Cavalry

Created by Soramichi
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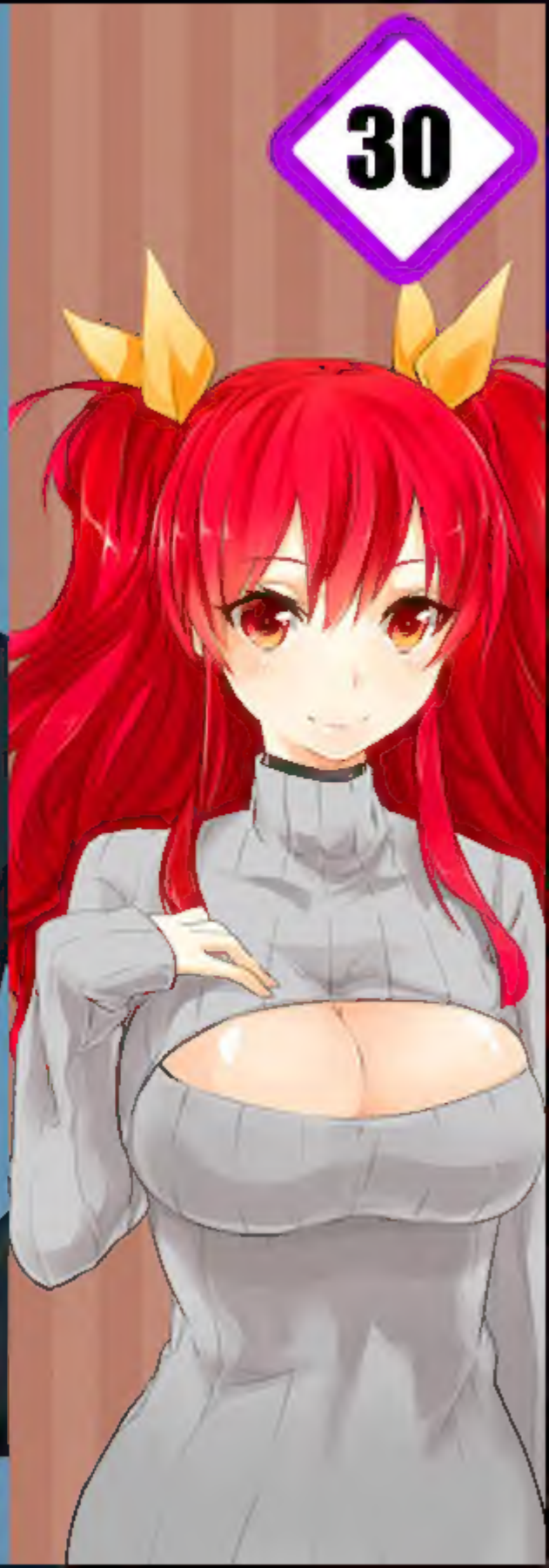

A PEACEFUL EVERYDAY SCENE...

RAKUDAI KISHI NO EIYUUTAN

2

AHH...

A train?

AA

AA

MAN OH MAN,

LOOKS LIKE THIS YEAR'LL BE AS HOT AS EVER.

0

0

Haa...

Haa...

Ha...

Haa

Haa...

2

HEY YOU!

ARE YOU OKAY!?

H—

I'LL CALL YOU AN AMBU-LANCE...

...HMM?

DOESN'T LOOK THAT WAY!

YEAH...

I'M... FINE...

THIS BOY...

ISN'T HE THE ONE WHO SEDUCED THE PRINCESS, OR WHATEVER THAT RUMOR WAS...!?

HM?

.....

MOUNTAIN ROUTE 2

AH—

SORRY, I'M IN A HURRY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN, BUT...

Elevator Escalator

Exit

MORE POLITE THAN THE NEWS SAID...

...HE'S A LOT

I THINK...

落第騎士の英雄譚

Rakudai Kishi no Eiyuutan

THE SUMMIT IS DANGEROUSLY FAR—

ORIGINAL WORK: RIKU MISORA
MANGA: MEGUMU SORAMICHI
CHARACTER DESIGN: WON

Chapter 30: FACING THE DARKNESS...

GUH...

IT HURTS ...

COUGH

COUGH

Haa

Haa

I HAVE TO CHALLENGE RAIKIRI LIKE THIS...?

IT'S BASICALLY SUICIDE.

IMPOSSIBLE...

IN THE FIRST PLACE, THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE AS HOLLOW AS ME, HOLDING A SWORD AS EMPTY AS MINE CAN DEFEAT SOMEONE SO PROUD.

...I CAN'T WIN.

I WON'T MAKE IT TO THE MATCH...

IF I CAN'T GET THERE, I'LL LOSE.

NO...

IF I DON'T GET UP...

IF I LOSE ...

HUH...?

WHAT WOULD... HAPPEN ...?

IN THE END... NOTHING'S CHANGED SINCE THAT DAY IN THE SNOW...

ALL I'VE DONE IS STRUGGLE...

NOT A SINGLE EXPECTATION, NOT A SINGLE ACCOMPLISH-MENT.

NOT... A SINGLE THING HAS CHANGED FOR ME.

REALLY, WHAT'VE I BEEN DOING ...?

I JUST...

WANT TO SLEEP...

HAGUN ACADEMY PRACTICE ARENA #1

WOW, THE PLACE IS PACKED AGAIN, HUH?

SHEESH... THAT RED TANUKI PLANNED IT OUT THIS FAR.
AND A NATIONWIDE LIVE BROAD-CAST TOO, IT SEEMS.

HEY, DO YOU THINK THE NEWS WAS RIGHT?

THAT THE WORST ONE WAS A DELIN-QUENT EVEN AS A KID...?

EHH...

I DUNNO.

BUT IT'S HIS OWN FAMILY SAYING SO?

YOUR OWN RELATIVES WOULDN'T MAKE UP THAT KIND OF LIE.

I DON'T BELIEVE 'EM... THE GUY TAUGHT ME HOW TO IMPROVE MY SWORD SWINGS.

YEAH.

ESPECIALLY AMONG THE ONES WHO'VE MET KUROGANE PERSONALLY.

IT LOOKS LIKE NOT ALL OF THE KIDS JUST ACCEPT THE STORY, HUH?

AT THIS POINT, TRUTH DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.

BUT...

WHO COULD'VE KNOWN IT WOULD ALL COME DOWN TO A DUEL?

I THOUGHT WE SHOULD HOLD OUT UNTIL VERMILLION'S FATHER CAME, BUT...

TCH. THEY REALLY PULLED ONE ON US.

THOSE BASTARDS.

NOW THE PROOF OF KUROGANE'S INNOCENCE HAS TO COME FROM VICTORY HERE.

GOOD AFTER-NOON.

MY~ WHAT TERRIBLY HOT WEATHER.

HE HE HE.

ALLOW ME TO ACCEPT THE COMPLI-MENT.

...WHAT'S YOUR BUSI-NESS WITH US, AKAZA?

NOW NOW, NO NEED TO BARE YOUR FANGS.

AHH,

WE'VE FINALLY FOUND THEM.

IT'S NOT ME WHO HAS BUSINESS, BUT RATHER SENSEI WHO ASKED ME TO BRING HIM TO THE TWO OF YOU.

GAH!

ヒッ

OLD MAN!

HO HO HO.

MY FAVORITE PUPIL, YOUR MOUTH IS AS ROTTEN AS EVER.

WELL, THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU CUTE, NO?

KEH.

DON'T SAY SUCH CREEPY THINGS!

HOW ABOUT ACTING MORE HONEST-LY AND JUST BE HAPPY?

Your face is red

AND ALSO...

HER OPPONENT IS A KUROGANE, SO MY FEET CARRIED ME HERE ON THEIR OWN.

THAT ASIDE, NANGOU-SENSEI, WHY ARE YOU HERE?

TO SEE MY STUDENT TOUKA ON STAGE, OF COURSE.

HE HE HE.

ALAS...

TODAY'S MATCH MIGHT NOT HAPPEN FOR SOME REASON OR ANOTHER.

SIR RYOUMA KUROGANE WAS NANGOU-SENSEI'S LIFE-LONG RIVAL, AFTER ALL.

IT IS TIME FOR THE MATCH BETWEEN CONTENDER TOUKA TOUDOU AND CONTENDER IKKI KURO-GANE.

BUT CONTENDER IKKI KUROGANE HAS NOT YET ARRIVED IN THE WAITING ROOM.

WHAT?

ATTENTION EVERYONE.

THEN ACCORDING TO MATCH RULES, HE WILL LOSE BY DEFAULT.

OH MY, OH MY.

IN THE EVENT THAT CONTENDER KUROGANE DOES NOT ARRIVE WITHIN THE NEXT TEN MINUTES,

KUROGANE SHOULD'VE BEEN BROUGHT HERE WITH YOU, ETHICS CHAIRMAN AKAZA.

WASN'T THAT WHAT YOU TOLD ME?

コッ

AH, MY APOLO-GIZES.

I **COMPLETELY** FORGOT TO MENTION IT.

SINCE TRAINS WERE AVAILABLE, HE COULD ALSO COME ON HIS OWN.

THOUGH HE WASN'T IN VERY GOOD CONDITION.

I DO HOPE HE DIDN'T COLLAPSE ALONG THE WAY, YES?

DON'T BLOW YOUR TOP, KUU-CHAN.

M...

THIS SON OF A BITCH ...!

KURO-BOU ACCEPTED THE DUEL.

HOWEVER IT GOT THIS WAY,

WHAT WE DO COMES AFTER.

THAT'S TRUE.

YEAH.

3...

THINGS HAVE GONE WELL UP TO THIS POINT.

HE HE HE.

I'LL BID FAIRWELL TO THE ROLE OF VILLAIN HIDING IN THE BRANCH'S SHADOW.

ONCE IKKI-KUN IS BANISHED FROM THE LEAGUE, MY POSITION WILL RISE FROM ETHICS CHAIRMAN TO PUBLIC RELA-TIONS CHIEF.

IT'S HARDLY MY RESPONSI-BILITY.

EVEN IF IKKI-KUN'S LIFE IS AT RISK, WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD THAT MAKE?

BUT I'LL CRUSH IKKI-KUN UTTERLY.

REGRETTABLE IT MAY BE

AS LONG AS THERE'S A WILL NOT TO GIVE UP, HUMANS CAN ACHIEVE JUST ANYTHING.

HEY, KID.

...BUT WAS THAT MEETING THE RIGHT THING FOR YOU?

IT BURDENED YOU WITH SOLITUDE AND AGONY.

WHILE STEALING GLANCES AT SWORD TRAINING EVEN BRANCH FAMILY KIDS RECEIVED...

THE SOLITUDE OF HIDING AWAY TO PRACTICE

THE AGONY OF CHALLENGING DOJOS

AS A MIDDLE-SCHOOL BRAT, AND BEING BEATEN FOR IT

"SORRY, KURO-
GANE. I CAN NO
LONGER BE..."

ABANDONED
BY FRIENDS.

GETTING SNEERED
AT BY CLASS-
MATES, DISDA NED
BY TEACHERS...

BECALSE
OF RYOUMA
KUROGANE'S
RRESPONSI-
BLE WORDS.

AND NOW,
HERE YOU
ARE AGA N

HAD YOU SIMPLY LIVED A LIFE WITHIN YOUR MEANS,

JUST LIKE FATHER SAID,

NONE OF THIS WOULD BE NEEDED.

HEY, YOU KNOW IT'S POINTLESS, RIGHT?

BURNING...
HAIR?

WHO IS
THAT?

IF I
CLOSED
MY EYES,
I'D BE
AT EASE.

YEAH...
THAT'S RIGHT.
I SHOULD JUST
REST.

IF I
KEPT GOING,
THERE'D BE
NOTHING BUT
HEARTBREAK.

IT'S A PROMISE.

I CAN'T TELL. .

BUT...

I DID... MAKE AN OATH TO SOMEONE PRECIOUS.

SO—GO

HIGH—

KNIGH—

A PROMISE.

AH

JUST STOP IT. WHY DO YOU KEEP HURTING YOURSELF?

AAA HHH

AAH AAA HHH

I MADE—

A PROMISE

...!

YOU'RE SAYING YOU'LL KEEP DOING THIS TO THE END HUH?

I SEE.

BUT...

WHAT CAN YOU ACCOM-PLISH WITH SUCH AN EMPTY SWORD?

...!

EVEN SO, I HAVE TO GO ON.

TO HER SIDE...!

ONII-
SAMA.

WELCOME
BACK

SHIZU
...KU.

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE WOUNDED EVEN MORE THAN THIS.

HONEST-LY...

SHOULD I TELL YOU TO STOP?

I WAS IN TORMENT.

AFTER I HEARD... FROM TOUKA-SAN LAST NIGHT...

I WANTED YOU TO STOP TRYING TO BE A KNIGHT, AND COME BACK TO THE KUROGANE HOUSE WITH ME.

EVEN IF THE FAMILY DIDN'T RESPECT YOU,

I'D MAKE UP FOR ALL OF THAT ON MY OWN.

SO I WANTED YOU TO REST.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WANTED TO SAY SO, I STILL WAVERED.

BUT...

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT ...

BECAUSE ONII-SAMA, WHILE YOU WERE HERE AT SCHOOL,

YOUR HAD REAL HAPPINESS IN YOUR SMILE.

SO I MADE A BET.

IF YOU CAME HERE OF YOUR OWN WILL,

THEN—

WITH ALL MY HEART.

I'D CHEER YOU ON

IKKI-KUN! FIGHT!

THE MATCH HASN'T STARTED YET! HURRY UP!

SENPAI, YOU'LL DEFINITELY WIN!

YOU WON AGAINST US, SO LET'S SEE THAT SPIRIT AGAIN!

STRIVE AND ACHIEVE.

SENPAI, YOU'LL BE FRONT PAGE NEXT ISSUE, SO LET'S GO!

KURO-GANE-KUN, IT'S YOUR MOMENT OF TRUTH!

ONII-SAMA, DON'T FORGET.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE ANYMORE.

RIGHT NOW, THESE MANY PEOPLE ARE CHEERING FOR YOU TOO.

EVEN STELLA AND ALICE WHO COULDN'T COME BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN MATCHES

WOULD DEFINITELY AGREE.

THE WORST ONE IS A HERO TO ALL OF US.

SO PLEASE FIGHT.

AND WIN!

OH...
I SEE.

SHIZU-
KU...

EVERY-
ONE...

I THOUGHT I
HAD NOTHING
IMPORTANT
TO BEAR.

BUT I WAS
WRONG!

PEOPLE WHOSE DREAMS I'VE STOLEN AWAY.

PEOPLE WHO LOOK UP TO ME. PEOPLE WHO ADMIRE ME.

AND...

THEY ALL HAVE DIFFER-ENT HOPES THEY'VE ENTRUSTED TO ME.

AT SOME POINT, I BECAME THAT KIND OF PERSON.

IKKI!!

SHE AND I ARE NOW KNIGHTS WITH EQUAL WEIGHT UPON OUR SHOULDERS.

I'LL FIGHT...

I'M OFF—

EVERY-ONE, THANKS.

THANK GOOD-NESS,

Haa

I MADE IT...!

WH... STELLA-SAN!?

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN A MATCH...!

IKKI

LIKE WE PROMISED, I'M NOW A REPRESENTA-TIVE FOR THE SEVEN STARS SWORD-ART FESTIVAL!

SO THAT MEANS YOU HAVE TO WIN TOO!

AND LET'S GO TOGETHER!

AS HIGH AS KNIGHTS CAN GO!

IS REALLY SO WONDERFUL.

AHH... THE GIRL I LOVE...

I'M IN LOVE WITH HER.

THAT'S SOMETHING I'M PROUD OF.

WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO BE WORTHY... SO...

ALWAYS GIVING ME COURAGE AND STRENGTH, EVEN NOW...!

YEAH.

I'M GOING TO WIN, STELLA!

TO BE CONTINUED 10/6

WITH ALL THESE HOPES PLACED UPON HIS SWORD, HE PROCEEDS TO BATTLE —!